



Fort Necessity – Mount Washington Tavern



The Mount Washington Tavern was built near Fort Necessity as a stagecoach stop on the National Road. Today it is a museum dealing with life along the Road.

The National Road, currently called U.S. Route 40, was the first highway built entirely with

federal funds. The road was authorized by Congress in 1806. Construction began in Cumberland, Maryland in 1811.

The Mount Washington Tavern was a stagecoach tavern, one of the more expensive taverns. It was designed for the wealthier travelers. It served

meals and drinks had had overnight accommodations.

Built in the 1830s the Mount Washington Tavern was used until stagecoach traffic declined on the National Road due to the advent of the railroad. It closed around 1856.

Point it out on a map.



Explain how it was discovered.

- The tavern is still standing, so its location was always known.



Archaeologist digging at the front of the Mt Washington Tavern.



Describe some of the information from the past that has been found at the site.

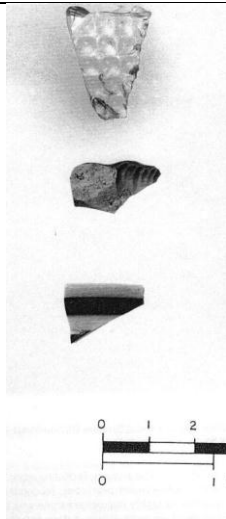
- Many pieces of broken plates, dishes and cups were found, which is what would be expected at a tavern site.
- The pattern on the dishes helped date when the dish was made, and gave archaeologist and idea of when the site was used.



Fork with the ends broken off found at the Mount Washington Tavern.

Explain how the information gained from the study of this sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking.

- The basement of the tavern was leaking and repairs were needed on the outside foundation. To dig around the foundation to do the repairs would destroy any archaeological evidence, so the archaeology was done before the repairs.
- Archaeology was also done where a new parking lot was going to be built.
- The archaeologist learned about everyday life at the Mount Washington Tavern.

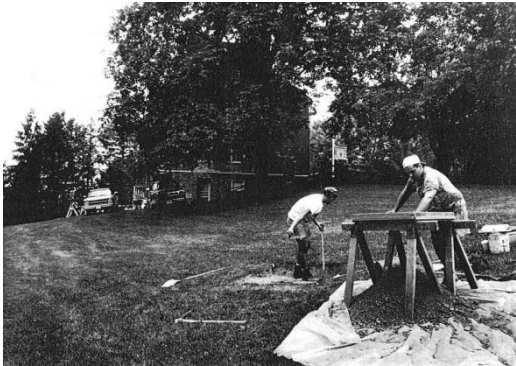


Broken glass and ceramics found at the Mount Washington Tavern.

Explain how the information may be important for modern people.

- This site is open to the public so people can learn about tavern life and travel on the National Road.

Archaeology being done before building a



parking lot.

To learn more:
Fort Necessity National Battlefield: www.nps.gov/fone

All photographs courtesy of the National Park Service, Fort Necessity National Battlefield.